

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /068 W
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R 072009Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8873
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 09638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV WB GW UR
SUBJECT: BERLIN MAYOR ISSUES "INVITATION" TO WORLD
SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 2916; (B) BONN 2382; (C) BONN 1486;
(D) 76 BONN 6021; (E) 76 USBER 489;
(F) 76 USBER 066; (G) 76 BONN 405

BEGIN SUMMARY: ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THE DIFFICULTIES
WHICH HAVE ATTENDED THE HOLDING OF INTERNATIONAL
SPORTING EVENTS IN BERLIN, WITH THE SOVIETS INSISTING
THAT THESE ARE "MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS" AND THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT THUS
REQUIRES AN INVITATION FROM THE BERLIN SENAT. THE
SENAT HAS IN THE PAST REFUSED TO ISSUE INVITATIONS
TO PRIVATELY ORGANIZED EVENTS, AND THE ALLIES HAVE
SUPPORTED THE FRG POSITION THAT SUCH INVITATIONS ARE
NOT REQUIRED BY THE QA. THE SOVIETS BOYCOTTED THE
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INTERNATIONAL SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP LAST YEAR.
IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO AVOID A SIMILAR BOYCOTT OF
THE 1978 WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP IN BERLIN, MAYOR
STOBBE HAS SENT THE ORGANIZERS A CLEVERLY-WORDED LETTER
THAT HAS THE RING OF AN "INVITATION" BUT AVOIDS
EXTENDING A FORMAL INVITATION TO THE ORGANIZATION TO
HOLD THE MEET IN BERLIN. WHETHER THIS ATTEMPT WILL

BE SUCCESSFUL MUST AWAIT A SOVIET REACTION. END
SUMMARY

1. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THE SOVIET-INSPIRED DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE SURROUNDED THE FORM OF INVITATIONS ISSUED TO PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS IN WEST BERLIN. IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO DISTINGUISH BERLIN FROM THE FRG, THE USSR HAS INSISTED THAT INVITATIONS EVEN TO SPORTING EVENTS HOSTED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE ISSUED UNDER THE INVITATION PROCEDURES OF ANNEX IV OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, I.E., BY THE BERLIN SENAT ALONE OR JOINTLY BY THE FRG AND THE SENAT. THE BERLIN SENAT HAS REFUSED TO DO SO IN THE PAST; FOR EXAMPLE, IT REFUSED LAST YEAR TO ISSUE EVEN A LETTER OF GREETING IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE EAST BLOC PARTICIPATION IN THE 1976 WORLD SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS. IN THE END, THE SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS BOYCOTTED THE EVENT (REF E).

2. IN A BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT OF BERLIN AS A SITE FOR INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ CALLED THE SOVIET BLOC ACTION "SILLY" AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF HELSINKI AND SAID THAT THE QA DOES NOT REGULATE INVITATION PROCEDURES FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPORTING EVENTS. THE USSR PROTESTED TO THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW, CALLING HIS STATEMENTS JURIDICALLY WITHOUT SUBSTANCE AND ASSERTING THAT HE COULD NOT INTERPRET THE CONFIDENTIAL

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QA. THE SOVIET DEMARCHE REQUESTED THE ALLIED VIEWS. THE ALLIES LATER REPLIED WITH AN AGREED-UPON STATEMENT, SAYING THAT THE MAYOR WAS FREE TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS BUT THAT ONLY THE FOUR SIGNATORIES COULD COMMENT AUTHORITATIVELY ON THE QA. HOWEVER, THE REPLY ALSO AGREED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF SCHUETZ' INTERPRETATION OF THE QA AS REGARDS INVITATIONS TO PRIVATE SPORTING EVENTS. THE SOVIETS LATER REPEATED THEIR POSITION THAT THE QA IS "UNIVERSAL" WITH RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS AND THE ALLIES AGAIN REASSERTED THEIR POSITION.

3. THE FRG CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS AN EUNDERSTANDING WITH THE USSR THAT PARALLEL INVITATIONS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPORTING EVENTS COULD BE ISSUED BY THE SPORTING ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE FRG AND BERLIN (REF D) BUT IN THE CASE OF THE SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE SPORTS ORGANIZATION REFUSED TO ISSUE AN INVITATION, APPARENTLY ON INSTRU-

TIONS OF THE PARENT ORGANIZATION IN THE FRG.

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4. IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO FIND A "PRACTICAL SOLUTION" TO THE PROBLEM OF THE FORM OF INVITATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS IN BERLIN, GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE OF BERLIN HAS SENT AN "INVITATION" TO THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION (FINA) CONCERNING THE WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP IN BERLIN. STOBBE'S INVITATION IS CAREFULLY WORDED AND QUITE CLEVERLY CONSTITUTED. IT SPEAKS OF HOLDING THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BERLIN AS AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT AND, IN A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH, EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO COME TO BERLIN, NOT TO COME TO THE EVENT ITSELF. A LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE INVITATION IS, "I WARMLY INVITE TO OUR CITY;" IT DOES NOT EVEN SAY WHO IS BEING INVITED. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER, DATED MAY 18, 1977, FOLLOWS:

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"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THE THIRD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SWIMMING, DIVING, WATERBALL AND SYNCHRONATED GROUP SWIMMING WILL TAKE PLACE IN BERLIN (WEST) FROM AUGUST 20 TO 29, 1978. I HAVE THE HONOR AND PLEASURE TO WELCOME THIS SPORTING EVENT. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO FINA THAT IT HAS SCHEDULED THIS EVENT TO TAKE PLACE HERE.

I WARMLY INVITE (YOU) TO OUR CITY AND HOPE THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WILL ENJOY THEMSELVES HERE AND WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOSPITALITY OF OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE VERY INTERESTED IN YOUR SPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WARMLY GREET FINA, ITS MEMBER GROUPS AND ALL OF THE ATHLETES OF THE 1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

WITH BEST REGARDS. DIETRICH STOBBE"

5. IT HAS BEEN FEARED THAT THE SOVIET BOYCOTT MIGHT BE REPEATED IN THE 1978 SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP. IN 1975 THE THEN BERLIN SENATOR FOR FAMILY, YOUTH AND SPORT REPORTEDLY EXTENDED IN CALI, COLOMBIA, AN INVITATION TO FINA TO HOLD THE 1978 CHAMPIONSHIP IN BERLIN (REF A), BUT THIS WAS REPORTEDLY DONE IN A SOMEWHAT INFORMAL MANNER AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT SATISFY THE SOVIET INSISTENCE ON FORMALITY.

6. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, BERLIN CDU OPPOSITION LEADER LORENZ, IN A BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATE ON THE STOBBE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, CRITICIZED STOBBE FOR EXTENDING THE "SEPARATE" INVITATION AND ACCUSED HIM OF SETTING AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT WHICH WILL WORK TO THE DETRIMENT OF BERLIN'S TIES WITH THE FRG.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM HAS PREVIOUSLY
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BEEN TREATED AT LENGTH IN THE BONN GROUP, STOBBE TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO ISSUE THE INVITATION REPORTEDLY INFORMING THE FRG A HALF-HOUR BEFORE IT WAS ISSUED. WE LEARNED OF IT BY CHANCE WHEN THE NEW BERLIN SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS, HORST KORBER, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 1. HE HAD A COPY OF THE INVITATION DELIVERED IN THE BONN GROUP THE FOLLOWING DAY.

8. WHETHER STOBBE'S ATTEMPT TO SOLVE A LONG-STANDING
PROBLEM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THIS

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ACTION CONFIRMED HIS STATED DESIRE TO FIND "PRACTICAL
SOLUTIONS" TO THORNY PROBLEMS SURROUNDING BERLIN.
STOBBE'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS MAY BE IMPROVED IF A
STATEMENT (REF E, PARA 6) MADE BY SOVIET CONSUL
GENERAL SHARKOV TO AN OFFICER IN US MISSION BERLIN
LAST YEAR IS STILL VALID. AT THAT TIME,
SHARKOV SAID THAT THE USSR WOULD HAVE ATTENDED THE
SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP IF THE SENAT HAD EVEN
ISSUED A LETTER OF GREETING. HOWEVER, SHARKOV'S COMMENTS
ON THE WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP (REF E, PARA 7)
SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS MAY FIND STOBBE'S LETTER
INADEQUATE SINCE SHARKOV ALSO STATED THAT FINA
REGULATIONS PROVIDE THAT INVITATIONS TO WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE TO BE ISSUED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT.
HE IMPLIED THAT THE SENAT SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE NO
DIFFICULTY IN COMPLYING WITH THE QA INVITATIONS
PROVISIONS.
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9. FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES TELL US THAT THE
FRG IS "NOT UNHAPPY" WITH STOBBE'S INITIATIVE BUT
THAT THEY FEAR THE USSR WILL BE FORCED TO REJECT IT
AS INADEQUATE IF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS PURSUE THE
MATTER TO THE POINT OF FORCING AN ADMISSION THAT IT
IS NOT AN "INVITATION" IN THE SENSE OF THE QA. THE
GERMAN SPORTS FEDERATION HAS REPORTEDLY INDUCED THE
MAYOR OF HANNOVER TO AGREE TO ISSUE A SIMILAR LETTER
FOR A SPORTING EVENT THERE, IN THE HOPE BOTH OF
AVOIDING A SOVIET BOYCOTT AND OF MAKING BERLIN
APPEAR TO BE LESS OF A "SPECIAL CASE."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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